

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A manually releasable clip holder for receiving, holding and manually releasing a serpentine clip comprising:

- 5                   a base-plate, the base plate being substantially flat,  
                  an insert coupled to the base-plate, the insert having an insert cover positioned over the base plate to form an insert channel over the base plate, the insert cover having a top edge, [[and]] a bottom edge, **and an inner and an outer surface,** the insert channel having an insert channel entrance adjacent the insert cover top edge,  
10                  a flap pivotally coupled to the base plate, the flap having a top and bottom edge,  
                  a spring coupled to restore the flap to a predetermined restored position with the flap bottom edge positioned above the insert cover top edge **with the flap bottom edge protruding beyond the insert cover outer surface by a predetermined**  
15 **insert cover outer surface to flap bottom edge clearance distance that is greater than zero.**

2. (canceled) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 wherein the insert has an insert cover, the insert cover has an insert cover inner surface facing the base  
20 plate and an outer surface, and wherein, the flap is restored to position the flap bottom edge above the insert cover top edge, the spring and flap are coupled to return the flap bottom edge to a limit position at which the flap bottom edge protrudes beyond the insert cover outer surface by a predetermined insert cover outer surface to flap bottom edge clearance distance that is greater than zero.

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3. (original) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 wherein the base-plate has a top end and a bottom end, the top end having

a receiving fold formed from a first flange region,

the flap having top edge positioned in the receiving fold of the base

5 plate,

the spring coupled between the base-plate and the flap being formed and coupled to the base plate to restore the flap to its restored position and to hold the flap top edge in the receiving fold.

10 4. (amended) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 further comprising:

a body, the base-plate forming the floor of the body, the base-plate having a top end, a bottom end and a longitudinal axis, the insert having a longitudinal axis aligned with the longitudinal axis of the base plate,

15 the flap being formed from a thin walled plate material having a left edge, a right edge, a top edge, and a longitudinal axis parallel to the longitudinal axis of the base plate, the flap being formed to have left and right flap pivot flanges extending outward from the left edge and the right edge transverse to the longitudinal axis from root locations near the top edge,

20 the body having a left sidewall and a right sidewall, the left [[side wall]] sidewall and the right [[side wall]] sidewall being positioned to be substantially normal to the base plate, each sidewall having a respective flap flange receiving hole formed therein to receive a corresponding left and right flap pivot flange to permit the flap to pivot on the left and right flap pivot flanges.

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5. (amended) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 wherein:

the base-plate is substantially rectangular, formed from thin walled material and having a top end, a bottom end, a left edge and a right edge, a left [[side wall]] sidewall being formed on the left edge, a right [[side wall]] sidewall being  
30 formed on the right edge, each respective sidewall extending vertically from the base-plate,

the flap being formed from a thin walled material and having a left edge, a right edge, and wherein the flap further comprises:

a rod coupled to the flap near to the top end, the rod extending past the flap's left edge and the right edge parallel to the top bottom edge and forming a flap  
5 pivot axel having a left and a right axel end,

the left [[side wall]] **sidewall** and the right [[side wall]] **sidewall** each having a hole formed therein to receive the corresponding left and right axel end, the flap thereby using the rod as a pivot axel for the flap.

10 6. (original) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 further comprising:

a body, the base-plate forming the floor of the body, the body being formed from a thin wall plate material, the base-plate having a top end, a bottom end and a longitudinal axis, the insert having a longitudinal axis aligned with the  
15 longitudinal axis of the base plate, and a leather pad having at least one belt loop, the body being coupled to the leather pad.

20 7. (amended) A manually releasable clip holder for receiving and holding a serpentine clip coupled to a tool or object, the manually releasable clip holder comprising:

a body having a base-plate positioned between a left sidewall and right sidewall, the base-plate being substantially rectangular and having a top end, a bottom end and a longitudinal axis passing between the left sidewall and the right sidewall, the left and right [[side wall]] **sidewall** extending vertically from the base-plate,

25 an insert coupled to the base plate between the left and right [[side wall]] **sidewall** s, the insert having an insert left [[side wall]] **sidewall** coupled to the body, an insert right [[side wall]] **sidewall** coupled to the body, the insert left and insert right [[side walls]] **sidewalls** supporting an insert cover positioned between the insert left sidewall and insert right sidewall, the insert cover having an outer surface and an inner  
30 surface, the insert cover inner surface facing the base-plate, the insert cover having a top edge and a bottom edge, the insert left sidewall, insert right sidewall and insert cover

inner surface forming an insert channel having a channel aperture, the insert cover top edge forming a portion of the perimeter of the insert channel aperture.

- 5 a flap having a top edge, a bottom edge, a left edge, a right edge and a longitudinal axis parallel to the longitudinal axis of the base plate, the flap being pivotally coupled on a pivot axis to the body, the pivot axis being located to position the flap bottom edge above the insert channel top edge,

- 10 a spring coupled to the body and to the flap to restore the flap to a restored position with the bottom edge positioned above the channel aperture, a separation between the flap bottom edge in the restored position and the insert cover top edge forming a window to the channel aperture.

8. (original) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 7 wherein the base-plate has:

5 a receiving fold formed from a first flange region,  
the flap top edge being positioned into the receiving fold of the base plate,

the spring coupled between the base-plate and the flap being formed to hold the flap top edge in the receiving fold.

10 9. (amended) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 7 wherein the body and the base-plate forming the floor of the body, are formed from a thin wall plate material, and wherein the insert has a longitudinal axis that is aligned with the longitudinal axis of the base plate,

15 the flap being formed from a thin walled plate material, the flap being formed to have left and right flap pivot flanges extending outward from the left edge and the right edge transverse to the longitudinal axis of the flap and from root locations near the top edge,

the left sidewall and a right sidewall of the body each having a flap flange receiving hole formed therein to receive a respective left pivot flange and right flap pivot flanges to permit the flap to pivot on the left and right flap pivot flanges.

10. (original) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 7 wherein the flap further comprises:

25 left and right travel limit flanges, and wherein  
the body left sidewall and right sidewall have corresponding left and right travel limit apertures, the flap left and right travel limit flanges being positioned in the body's corresponding left and right travel limit apertures.

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11. (original) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 7 further comprising:

5 a flap travel limit means for limiting the pivotal travel of the flap to stop the insert cover bottom edge at a restored limit position, the flap bottom edge protruding a predetermined clearance distance beyond the insert cover outer surface, the clearance distance being greater than zero, and

a leather pad having at least one belt loop, the body being coupled to the leather pad.

10 12. (withdrawn) A manually releasable clip holder for receiving and holding an article with a serpentine clip comprising:

an integral and homogeneous combination, spring and flap, formed from a single sheet of thin walled spring material, the combination, spring and flap having a top region forming a flap with a bottom edge having a left end and a right end,  
15 a bottom region forming a base-plate having a right end and a left end,

a left spring leg region and a right spring leg region forming a left and right spring leg, the left and right spring legs extending from the base-plate left end and right end to corresponding flap bottom edge left end and right ends,

an insert, the insert having an insert left sidewall and an  
20 insert right sidewall, the insert left and right sidewalls being separated by a cover, the insert left sidewall and insert right sidewalls being coupled to the base-plate, the cover being positioned to form an insert channel between the base-plate and the cover, the insert left and insert right sidewalls and the cover each having a top edge, the insert left and insert right sidewall top edges forming  
25 an aperture at the entrance to the insert channel, the left spring leg and a right spring leg being formed to provide a restoring force to position the flap bottom edge above the insert cover top edge forming a window to the channel aperture,

a flap travel limit means for limiting the pivotal travel of the flap to stop the insert cover bottom edge at a restored limit position protruding a predetermined  
30 insert cover outer surface to flap bottom edge clearance distance greater than zero.

13. (withdrawn) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 12 further comprising:

at least a first body shell flange coupled to the base-plate, the body shell flange having an overhang displaced from the base plate and protruding over a portion of the flap at a distance from the base plate selected to limit the return motion of the flap to limit the distance that the flap bottom edge moves beyond the outer surface of the insert cover top edge to a predetermined clearance between the insert cover top edge and the flap bottom edge.

14. (withdrawn) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 12 further comprising:

a leather pad having at least one belt loop, the body being coupled to the leather pad.

15. (withdrawn) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 12 wherein the insert left sidewall and insert right sidewalls and the cover have bottom edges positioned to be above the base-plate, the left spring leg and a right spring leg extending on alternate sides of the insert sidewalls beyond the cover top edge to join the flap at corresponding ends of the flap lower edge.

16. (withdrawn) A manually releasable clip holder for receiving and holding a serpentine clip comprising::

a body having a base-plate region with a longitudinal axis and extended regions on alternate sides of the longitudinal axis, the alternate sides being shaped and bent to form a left body sidewall and a right body sidewall normal to the base-plate region, the base-plate having a top end and a bottom end,

an insert of thin walled material having the insert left sidewall and an insert right sidewall, and an insert cover, the insert left and right sidewall and the insert cover each having an outer surface, an inner surface and a top and bottom edge, each sidewall being coupled to the body between the body left and body right body sidewalls,

the insert left and right ~~[[side wall]]~~ **sidewall** s supporting the insert cover above the base-plate, the insert cover top edge, and the insert left and right sidewall top edges forming a channel aperture at the entrance to an insert channel positioned between the insert channel left and right sidewalls and above the floor of the base-plate,

the body base-plate having an extended region shaped and bent at a base-plate top-end to form a shoulder, the shoulder leading to a further extended base-plate region shaped to form a flap having a bottom edge distal from the shoulder, the shoulder being formed to position the flap above the base-plate,

the flap bottom edge being positioned above the insert cover top edge to form a window to the channel aperture, the flap shoulder material being shaped to allow the flap to be displaced toward the base-plate in response to a light manual force applied to the flap or in response to a light deflection force from a serpentine clip pressing against the flap to admit the clip into the insert channel, the shoulder functioning as a spring between the base-plate and the flap to provide a restoring force to return the flap to a predetermined restored position with a separation between the flap bottom edge in the restored position and the insert cover top edge and

means for limiting the distance that the flap bottom edge moves beyond the outer surface of the insert.

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17. (original) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 1 where in the means for limiting the distance that the flap bottom edge moves beyond the outer surface of the insert further comprises:

a flap having left and right travel limit flanges, and wherein

the body left sidewall and right sidewall have corresponding left and right travel limit apertures, the flap left and right travel limit flanges being positioned in the body's corresponding left and right travel limit apertures to limit the travel of the flap when the flap is in the restored position.

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18. (withdrawn) A manually releasable clip holder for receiving and holding a tape measure clip comprising::

5 a body having a base-plate region with a longitudinal axis and extended regions on alternate sides of the longitudinal axis, the alternate sides being shaped and bent to form a left body sidewall and a right body sidewall normal to the base-plate region, the base-plate having a top end and a bottom end,

an insert of thin walled material having the insert left sidewall, an insert right sidewall, and an insert cover, the insert sidewall and the insert cover each having an outer surface, an inner surface and a top and bottom edge,  
10 each insert sidewall being coupled to the base-plate between the left and right body sidewalls,

the insert left sidewall and insert right sidewall supporting the insert cover above the base-plate, the insert left sidewall top edge and right sidewall top edge, the insert cover top edge forming a channel aperture at the entrance to an  
15 insert channel between the insert channel left and right sidewalls and above the floor of the base-plate,

a flap having a bottom edge and a first region that extends away from the flap bottom edge to a top shoulder, the top shoulder being followed by a second region formed to extend in the direction of the flap bottom edge, the second region terminating  
20 in a hook shoulder, the hook shoulder being formed to extend into a hook flange region in the direction of the base plate top end,

the body base-plate having a base aperture positioned above the flap lower edge, the flap first region, top shoulder, foot flange region, hook shoulder and hook flange being formed to permit the hook flange to be inserted through the base  
25 aperture, each region and shoulder being formed and coupled to the base plate to position the flap lower edge above the insert cover top edge, to form a window to the channel aperture, the flap being displaced toward the base-plate in response to a light manual force or in response to a light deflection force from a serpentine clip to admit the clip into the insert channel via the insert aperture.

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19. (withdrawn) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 18 wherein  
the top shoulder, foot flange, hook shoulder and hook flange functioning  
as a spring between the base-plate and the flap to provide a restoring force to return the  
flap to a predetermined restored position with a separation between the flap bottom  
5 edge in the restored position and the insert cover top edge,  
wherein a means for limiting the distance that the flap bottom edge  
moves beyond the outer surface of the insert cove comprises:  
a flap having left and right travel limit flanges, and wherein  
the body left sidewall and right sidewall have corresponding left and  
10 right travel limit apertures, the flap left and right travel limit flanges being positioned in  
the body's corresponding left and right travel limit apertures.

20. (withdrawn) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 18 further  
comprising:  
15 means for limiting the distance that the flap bottom edge travels beyond  
the insert cover outer surface to establish an insert cover outer surface to flap bottom  
edge clearance distance when the flap is in the restored position.

21. (new) A manually releasable clip holder for receiving, holding and  
20 manually releasing a serpentine clip comprising:  
a base-plate, the base plate being substantially flat,  
an insert coupled to the base-plate, the insert having an insert cover  
positioned over the base plate to form an insert channel over the base plate, the insert  
cover having a top edge, a bottom edge, an inner and an outer surface, the insert channel  
25 having an insert channel entrance adjacent the insert cover top edge,  
a flap and spring combination 140, the flap and spring combination being  
formed from a single homogeneous piece of material and having a flap portion 30  
pivotally coupled to the base plate, the flap portion 30 having a bottom edge 31b,  
the flap and spring combination having a spring portion coupled to  
30 restore the flap portion 30 to a predetermined restored position with the flap bottom  
edge 31b positioned above the insert cover top edge with the flap bottom edge 31b

protruding beyond the insert cover outer surface 38 by a predetermined insert cover outer surface to flap bottom edge clearance distance 41 that is greater than zero .

22. (new) The manually releasable clip holder for receiving and holding a tape measure clip of claim 21 comprising::

a body 16 having a base-plate region 18 with a longitudinal axis that is shaped and bent to form a left body sidewall 20 and a right body sidewall 22 normal to the base-plate region 18, the base plate region having a top end,

an insert 24 of thin walled material having the insert left sidewall 32a, an insert right sidewall 32b, and an insert cover 28, the insert cover having an outer surface 38, an inner surface and a top edge 29a, each insert sidewall being coupled to the base-plate between the left and right body sidewalls 20, 22,

the insert left sidewall 32a and insert right sidewall 32b supporting the insert cover 28 above the base-plate 16, the insert left sidewall top edge and right sidewall top edge, the insert cover top edge 29a forming a channel aperture 52 at the entrance to an insert channel 50 between the insert channel left and right sidewalls 32a, 32b and above the floor of the base-plate 16,

the flap and spring combination 140 having a flap region that extends away from the flap bottom edge 31b to a top U-Bend 142, the top U-bend 142 being followed by a foot flange region 144 formed to extend in a reverse direction toward the flap bottom edge 31b, the foot flange region 144 terminating in a hook shoulder 146, the hook shoulder being formed to extend into a hook flange region 150 in the direction of away from the flap bottom edge,

the body base-plate 18 having a base aperture 148 positioned above the flap lower edge 31b, the flap region 30, top U-bend 142, foot flange region 144, hook shoulder 146 and hook flange 150 being formed to permit the hook flange to be inserted through the base aperture 148, each region and shoulder being formed and coupled to the base plate to return the flap bottom edge 31b to the predetermined position protruding beyond the insert cover outer surface 38 by a predetermined insert cover outer surface to flap bottom edge clearance distance 41 that is greater than zero,

the position the flap lower edge 31b above the insert cover top edge 29a forming

a window with a window height 36 leading to the channel aperture 52, the flap 30 portion of the flap and spring combination 140 being displaced toward the base-plate 16 in response to a light manual force or in response to a light deflection force from a serpentine clip to admit the clip into the insert channel 50 via the insert aperture 52.

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23. (new) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 21 wherein the top U-bend 142, foot flange region 144, hook shoulder 146 and hook flange 150 are formed to function as a spring between the base-plate 16 and the flap portion 30 of the flap and spring combination 140 to provide a restoring force to return the flap to a predetermined restored position with a separation between the flap bottom edge in the restored position and the insert cover top edge 29a,

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wherein a means for limiting the distance that the flap bottom edge moves beyond the outer surface of the insert cove comprises:

15 wherein

a flap portion 30 having left and right travel limit flanges 82a, 82b, and the body left sidewall 20 and right sidewall 22 have corresponding left and right travel limit apertures 84a, 84b, the flap left and right travel limit flanges 82a, 82b being positioned in the body's corresponding left and right travel limit apertures.

20 24. (new) The manually releasable clip holder of claim 21 further comprising:

means for limiting the distance that the flap bottom edge 31b travels beyond the insert cover outer surface 38 to establish an insert cover outer surface to flap bottom edge clearance distance 41 when the flap portion 30 of the flap and spring combination 140 is in the restored position.

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